

BILL # HCR 2026

SPONSOR: Paton

PREPARED BY: Jenna Goad

TITLE: redistricting commission; elected members

STATUS: House Engrossed

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Description

The resolution requires the election of members to the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) from each congressional district. This would currently increase membership from 5 to 8 individuals. IRC members are now appointed.

Estimated Impact

The resolution is estimated to have a minimal General Fund cost in FY 2011 and every 10 years thereafter for a longer sample ballot. There could be additional costs to the General Fund if the inclusion of candidates for the IRC causes the ballot to become 2 pages long.

There will also be a small cost associated with travel reimbursement for the added members. IRC members receive reimbursement for travel expenses, but do not receive per diem.

The Secretary of State's office was unable to provide a specific estimate of the fiscal impact, but believes the impact will be minimal unless the ballot requires a 2nd page.

Analysis

Currently, the IRC is made up of 5 appointed members. If approved by Arizona voters in the November 2008 election, the resolution would require the election of members to the IRC. Members would be elected during the fall primary and general elections in every year ending in 0, beginning in the fall of 2010. One member would be elected from each of Arizona's 8 congressional districts.

The resolution's potential fiscal impact is associated with a longer sample ballot, which increases printing and mailing costs. Adding 1 additional office to the ballot in each congressional district would not normally increase the cost. The Secretary of State's office estimates that the cost of this would be minimal.

Several technical stipulations related to qualifying for the ballot could potentially increase the cost of the resolution. For many elected offices, these technical stipulations are addressed in statute, not in the Arizona Constitution. While the resolution does not address these requirements, statutory changes could be made following the constitutional amendment if the resolution is approved by the voters. Because the resolution does not require candidates to collect signatures in order to appear on the ballot, the number of candidates requesting to be on the ballot could be unusually large. In addition, the resolution also does not specify how many candidates will progress from the primary election to the general election. This could also result in a large number of candidates qualifying for the general election.

If an unusually large number of candidates qualify for the election, the ballot may become too long to fit on 1 double-sided sheet of paper. If the ballot requires a 2nd sheet of paper, the General Fund cost associated with printing and mailing sample ballots would increase considerably. The Secretary of State's office was unable to provide an estimate of the cost of adding a 2nd page to the sample ballot.

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Local Government Impact

While the state pays for the cost of printing and mailing sample ballots, the counties pay for the cost of printing official ballots and mailing early ballots to voters. If the ballot does not extend to a 2nd page, the Arizona Association of Counties estimates that the cost to the counties to add IRC candidates to the ballot will be minimal.

If an unusually large number of candidates qualify for the election due to the technical stipulations discussed above, it would cost the counties approximately \$1.7 million if the ballot required a 2nd page.

4/15/08